

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-20 (canceled).

21. (Currently amended) A computer-based system for bench-marking of business performance for a high level summary of business results to which target scarce business resources at business change over a finite period of time, comprising

- (a) a single screen;
- (b) means to assimilate static data into the system via an interviewing procedure;
- (c) means to assimilate balance data into the system;
- (d) means to provide mapping of and a normalised structure of said static and balance data as a summary report;
- (e) means to provide an iterative sign-off report;
- (f) means to produce a separate report for each of a group of high level groupings of a particular node of a business;
- (g) said separate reports being used during sign-off from the system to provide sign-off sheet categories;
- (h) (~~g~~) drag and drop means whereby to display a normalised structure; and
- (i) (~~h~~) means to trigger bench-mark calculations which check the said reports for mapping changes and which are reviewed by a user of the system, whereby to

provide an analysis of a business comprising a relational data base management system (RDMS) and a visual basic front-end.

22. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The system as defined in Claim 21, wherein the means to assimilate data comprises a data base and graphical user interface whereby to normalise static data input.

23. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The system as defined in Claim 22, wherein the drag and drop means whereby to display a normalised structure comprises the graphical user interface.

24. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The system as defined in Claim 21, wherein there are sign off sheet categories adapted to group input data and to replay said data for formal sign off.

25. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The system as defined in Claim 21, wherein there is dictionary means adapted to relate to nodal points of a structure, and refer to exclude data related to discrete nodal points.

26. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The system as defined in Claim 25, wherein the said data is related to criteria related to or associated with a discrete nodal point.

27. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The system as defined in Claim 21, wherein there is a relational data base management system and a visual front end system.

28. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The system as defined in Claim 21, wherein the first RDMS forms at least part of the means to assimilate static data and comprises a plurality of discrete store tables for data.

29. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The system as defined in Claim 28, wherein the store tables are selected from the group comprising respectively tables to store source data, standardised structures and definitions, translated data, benchmarking results and/or allocations and security and audit functions.

30. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The system as defined in Claim 27, wherein the visual front end system is adapted to manipulate data of the relational data base management system.

31. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The system as defined in Claim 27, wherein the visual front end system comprises respective means for loading data, manipulation of standardised structures and definitions, mapping, translation of data into standardised format, calculation of results, reporting and administration.

32. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The system as defined in Claim 21, wherein there is means for loading data comprising means for handling data comprising static data, reporting structure, balance and metric data.

33. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The system as defined in Claim 31, wherein the means for administration comprises means for providing security and/or audit trail facilitation.

34. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The system as defined in Claim 21, when the business comprises investment banking.